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6 July 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director
THROUGH : Director of Operations
SUBJECT : Wire Recorder for U-2 Pilots

1. Recent missions, when the camera system has malfunctioned during the flight, have quite naturally motivated the U-2 pilots to record intelligence they acquire visually. When the aircraft is traversing condensed target areas, it is obvious that considerable intelligence is lost due to the limitations of the pilots to record all they see of interest.

2. It appears that a light weight self-contained wire recorder would be useful to assist the U-2 pilots record items of interest. Such a recorder is available and is made in Germany by the "MINIFON" Company. The device is called the "MINIFON" and is capable of recording 2 1/2 hours without a change of spools. It weighs about two pounds and contains its own power supply. They may be purchased in Wiesbaden for approximately \$150.00 complete.

3. It is recommended that:

- a. A recording system be considered for the U-2 pilots.
- b. The "MINIFON" be investigated to determine if this device is feasible for use during our missions.

Deputy Director of Operations

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c. It requires occasional monitoring by the pilot in flight.

4. It is my understanding that the Air Force has ten of these systems for test at WADC. If so, then it may be possible to acquire a few for tests with the U-2 aircraft to determine if such a system is feasible to be used for our purposes.

5. It is recommended that:

a. This system be investigated to determine if it can be used advantageously with the U-2 aircraft.

b. WADC be queried to determine if they have some systems that can be used for testing.

c. Tests be conducted by Col. McConnell's detachment.

d. Should these systems not be available at WADC, we procure two (2) from Bendix or Hycon, the contractors presently building that system for the Canadians.

6. The systems displayed within the attached brochure was developed over two years ago. It is my understanding that considerable improvement has been made in the system represented.

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Attach: Brochure on Position & Homing Indicator MK. 2 Photographs
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